

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the herein contained amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 53, 59 and 65 to place the claims in the same form as in a counterpart European Patent.

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicants submit that the entry of the herein contained amendment is appropriate to ensure correctness of the related application information and accordingly, respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and to indicate the entry of the amendment contained therein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.312.

The changes introduced by the amendment contained above do not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather, this amendment merely corrects the form of the claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that this amendment is proper for entry at the present time.

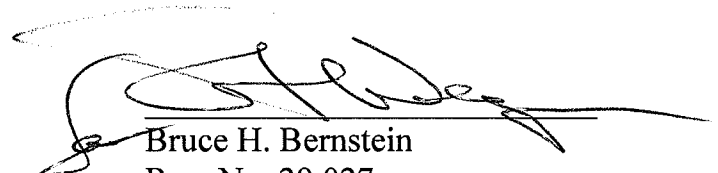
The above amendment further does not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner has already considered the reasons for patentability of the present invention and no new issues are raised by the above-amendment. Accordingly, Applicants submit that under the criteria

set forth in the M.P.E.P., the present amendment should be considered and its entry should be recommended by the Examiner.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the present amendment to the claims. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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